IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Original) A method in a data processing system for avoiding data loss during network port recovery, said method comprising:

linking a first network port to a second network port via a network, said second network port transmitting data to said first network port via said network;

determining that said first network port needs to be reinitialized; and

prior to said first network port executing a reinitialization process, notifying, by said first network port, said second network port to pause its data transmissions to said first network port.

2.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

pausing, by said second network port, data transmissions to said first network port.

3.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

pausing, by said second network port, data transmissions to said first network port;

determining that said first network port has completed its reinitialization process; and

notifying, by said first network port, said second network port to resume its data transmissions to said first network port.

4.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

executing, by said first network port, a re-initialization process while said second network port pauses its data transmissions to said first network port.

5.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

providing, by said first network port, a timer value to said second network port prior to said first network port beginning its re-initialization process; and

pausing, by said second network port, data transmissions to said first network port until said timer value expires.

6. (Original) The method according claim 5, further comprising the steps of:
determining that said timer value has expired;
in response to determining that said timer value has expired, determining whether said first network port has completed its re-initialization process;
in response to a determination that said first network port has not completed its re-initialization process, providing a second timer value to said second network port; and
pausing, by said second network port, data transmissions to said first network port until said second timer value expires.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:
determining that said timer value has expired;
in response to determining that said timer value has expired, determining whether said first network port has completed its re-initialization process;
in response to a determination that said first network port has completed its re-initialization process, providing a third timer value to said second network port;
resuming, by said second network port, data transmissions to said first network port upon a receipt of said third timer value.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:
said third timer value being a value of zero.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
determining whether said first network port has begun its re-initialization process by checking a current setting of a first flag.

10.-20. (Canceled)